

2015 Case and Demographic Press Release

The Survey of Occupational Injuries and Illnesses is an annual survey administered by the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics in collaboration with the Missouri Department of Labor and Industrial Relations' Research and Analysis Section. Occupational injury and illness data are collected from approximately 5,700 Missouri employers each year.

The most serious nonfatal occupational injury and illness cases involve lost work time (days away from work) for the injured or ill employee. Survey data indicated that there were 12,900 lost work time cases in Missouri private industry in 2015. This number is statistically significantly less than the 15,160 lost work time cases in 2014. The incidence rate for nonfatal occupational injuries and illnesses with days away from work per 10,000 full-time workers was 68.6 for private industry, also statistically significantly less than the 2014 rate of 81.1.

A measure of the severity of lost work-time cases is the median number of lost workdays. The median days away from work designates the point at which half the cases involved more days and half the cases involved fewer days. There were seven median days away from work for private industry in Missouri in 2015.

Goods and Services Industries

Survey data indicated that in 2015, 3,400 workers in private goods-producing industries had lost work time due to nonfatal injuries and illnesses. The days away from work incidence rate for goods-producing industries was 92.2 per 10,000 full-time workers. Goods-producing industries had ten median days away from work in 2015. The construction major industry sector had 14 median days away from work in 2015.

In 2015, the number of Missouri workers who lost work time due to work-related injuries and illnesses incurred in private service-providing industries was 9,500. The days away from work incidence rate was 62.9 per 10,000 full-time workers. Service-providing industries had seven median days away from work in 2015. The other services except public administration major industry sector had 15 median days away from work in 2015. The education and health services major industry sector had statistically significantly fewer days away from work cases and a statistically significantly lower incidence rate in 2015 than in 2014. The leisure and hospitality major industry sector had statistically significantly more days away from work cases and a statistically significantly higher incidence rate in 2015 than in 2014.

Gender

Male workers accounted for 64.0 percent of the nonfatal occupational injuries and illnesses involving days away from work in private industry in 2015. Male workers had statistically significantly fewer days away from work cases and a statistically significantly lower incidence rate in 2015 than in 2014. Male workers accounted for 84.7 percent of the cases in goods-producing industries and 56.4 percent of the cases in service-providing industries. Female workers accounted for 84.4 percent of cases in the education and health services major industry sector, 57.7 percent of the cases in the financial activities major industry sector, 52.8 percent of the cases in the leisure and hospitality major industry sector, and 52.0 percent of the cases in the other services major industry sector. Male workers had eight median days away from work in 2015. Female workers had five median days away from work.

Race or Ethnic Origin

White only was the race or ethnic origin in 49.1 percent of the nonfatal occupational injuries and illnesses involving days away from work in private industry in 2015. White workers had statistically significantly less cases with days away from work in 2015 than in 2014. Black only was the race in 7.4 percent of the cases; Hispanic or Latino only was the race in 2.3 percent of the cases; the race was not reported in 39.8 percent of the cases. Black only was the race in 14.8 percent of cases in the leisure and hospitality major industry sector, 13.9 percent of cases in the education and health services major industry sector, and 12.0 percent of the cases in the other services major industry sector. White workers had seven median days away from work. Black workers had six median days away from work. Hispanic or Latino workers had ten median days away from work. American Indian or Alaska Native workers had 20 median days away from work.

Experience on the Job

Workers with one to five years of service accounted for 32.4 percent of the nonfatal occupational injuries and illnesses with days away from work in private industry in 2015; workers with more than five years of service accounted for 31.3 percent of the cases. These two length of service categories, along with less than 3 months, each had statistically significantly fewer days away from work cases in 2015 than in 2014. There were statistically significantly more days away from work cases in the 3 to 11 months length of service category in 2015 compared to 2014. Workers with five or more years of service had eight median days away from work.

Age of Worker

Workers who were 45 to 54 years old accounted for 24.6 percent of the total number of nonfatal occupational injury and illness cases with days away from work in private industry in 2015; workers who were 35 to 44 years old accounted for 23.6 percent. Workers who were 25 to 34 years old and workers 55 to 64 years old had statistically significantly fewer days away from work cases in 2015 than in 2014. These two age categories, as well as workers 20 to 24 years old, had statistically significantly lower incidence rates in 2015 when compared to 2014. Workers who were 35 to 44 had 11 median days away from work.

Occupation

The occupation with the most nonfatal occupational injuries and illnesses involving days away from work in Missouri private industry in 2015 was heavy and tractor-trailer truck drivers with 1030. Laborers and freight, stock, and material movers, hand had 920 injuries and illnesses with days away from work in 2015. Construction laborers had 48 median days away from work. Licensed practical and licensed vocational nurses had 39 median days away from work.

Several occupations had statistically significantly less days away from work cases in 2015 than in 2014: heavy and tractor-trailer truck drivers; laborers and freight, stock, and material movers, hand; construction laborers; maintenance and repair workers, general; personal care aides; and carpenters. Other occupations had statistically significantly more days away from work cases: landscaping and groundskeeping workers; food preparation workers; cooks, restaurant; automotive technicians and mechanics; first-line supervisors of construction trades and extraction workers; and machinists.

Four characteristics are used to describe the event that caused an occupational injury or illness – nature of injury or illness (physical characteristics), part of body affected, source of injury or illness, and event or exposure.

Nature

Sprains, strains, tears was the nature of the injury or illness in 35.7 percent of the nonfatal occupational injuries and illnesses involving days away from work in 2015 in private industry. Sprains, strains, tears; amputations; punctures (except gunshot wounds); chemical burns and corrosions; and soreness, pain had statistically significantly lower incidence rates in 2015 than in 2014. All of these natures, except amputations, also had statistically significantly fewer days away from work cases in 2015 than in 2014.

Part of Body

The body part affected in 38.8 percent of all nonfatal occupational injury and illness cases in private industry in 2015 was upper extremities. Lower extremities accounted for 22.5 percent. Trunk accounted for 21.2 percent of the cases. Arm was the only part of body that had a statistically significantly higher incidence rate and statistically significantly more days away from work cases in 2015 than in 2014. The incidence rates were statistically significantly lower in 2015 than in 2014 for eye, upper extremities, shoulder, hand, lower extremities, knee, ankle, foot, and multiple parts. These parts, as well as toe, toenail, also had statistically significantly less days away from work cases in 2015 than in 2014.

Source

Floors, walkways, ground surfaces was the source of injury or illness in 17.5 percent of all nonfatal occupational injuries and illnesses involving days away from work in 2015 in private industry. Person, injured or ill worker was the source in 16.0 percent of the cases, with 15.9 percent of the cases being due to worker motion or position. Parts and materials; person, other than injured or ill worker; health care patient; and floors, walkways, ground surfaces had statistically significantly lower incidence rates in 2015 than in 2014, as well as statistically significantly fewer days away from work cases.

Event or Exposure

Overexertion and bodily reaction accounted for 33.6 percent of all events or exposures of injuries or illnesses in private industry. Falls, slips, trips accounted for 27.8 percent of the cases. Contact with object, equipment accounted for 25.5 percent. Violence and other injuries by persons or animal; animal and insect related incidents; contact with object, equipment; and struck by object or equipment had statistically significantly lower incidence rates and statistically significantly less days away from work cases in 2015 than in 2014. Struck against object or equipment had a statistically significantly higher incidence rate and statistically significantly more days away from work cases in 2015 than in 2014.

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For more information regarding this survey, please visit www.labor.mo.gov/lmi or www.bls.gov/iif or call the Missouri Department of Labor and Industrial Relations, Research and Analysis Section at (573) 751-9677.